

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3014
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6060

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

DEPT PASS EC COLLECTICE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP(DAYAN, MOSHE) IS, SW, DA, NO, FI
SUBJ: DAYAN'S VISIT TO SCANDINAVIA

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 2848, (B) OSLO 2205, (C) CAIRO 12310,
(D) HELSINKI 1383

1. SUMMARY: IN SPITE OF ISRAELI PRESS SPECULATION THAT DAYAN'S
VISIT WILL PROVE TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE BY CREATING ADDITIONAL
CONCESSIONARY PRESSURES, THE MFA FEELS ISRAEL CAN RELY ON ITS
TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH SCANDINAVIA TO MAKE AN EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS USEFUL. JERUSALEM HOPES TO EXPLAIN THE GOI POINT OF VIEW
AND IMPROVE ISRAEL'S IMAGE IN THE REGION BY SHOWING THAT THE MID-
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DLE EAST DEADLOCK IS NOT A RESULT OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE.
END SUMMARY

2. THE ISRAELI PRESS, WITHOUT GOING SO FAR AS SAYING THAT THE TRIP
SHOULD HAVE BEEN CANCELLED, IS SUGGESTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
DAYAN HAD TO PUSH FOR INVITATIONS TO VISIT THE FOUR CAPITALS AND
THAT HE CAN EXPECT LESS THAN A WARM RECEPTION ON WHAT WILL PROVE

TO BE A TOUGH TRIP MARKED BY VOCAL EXPRESSIONS OF DISSATISFACTION WITH ISRAEL'S POLICIES.

3. MR. DAVID APHEK OF THE MFA'S EUROPEAN DIVISION PUT THE VISIT IN A MORE POSITIVE FRAME, SAYING THAT THE TRADITIONALLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE REGION PERMITS AN OPEN AND CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH IS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE TRIP. DAYAN IS NOT EXPECTED TO COVER IN ANY DETAIL BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH ARE ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED, BUT ANTICIPATES ENCOUNTERING MANY OF THE SAME ARGUMENTS HE HAS RUN INTO IN BONN, BRUSSELS, AND ROME. THE MFA IS CONFIDENT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ABILITY TO PRESENT THE ISRAELI CASE AND TO SURVEY POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN RELATIONS WITH THESE NATIONS. THE GOI FEELS, ACCORDING TO APHEK, THAT THE SCANDINAVIANS NEED TO BE REASSURED THAT ISRAEL REMAINS OPEN-MINDED AND INTERESTED IN THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LINE HAS BEEN THAT THE VISITS ARE LONG OVERDUE RESPONSES TO STANDING INVITATIONS AND TO PAST VISITS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NATIONS TO BE VISITED. DAYAN APPARENTLY CONFIRMED HIS PLANS FOR THE VISITS IN CONSULTATIONS WITH SCANDINAVIAN MINISTERS WHILE IN NEW YORK AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST SEPTEMBER. JERUSALEM EXPECTS THE BEST RECEPTIONS IN NORWAY, WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSEST TO ISRAEL OF THE NATIONS TO BE VISITED, AND IN DENMARK, WHICH ALSO FALLS INTO THE CATEGORY OF "BEST FRIENDS." HOWEVER, WARM FEELINGS TOWARD DENMARK LATELY HAVE DAMPENED BECAUSE ISRAEL FEELS THAT THE DANES HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CONFIDENTIAL

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INFLUENCED BY THE ATMOSPHERE AND POLICIES OF THE NINE SINCE JOINING THE EEC. ISRAEL ALSO FEELS THAT COPENHAGEN, IN ITS LIAISON ROLE BETWEEN THE NINE AND THE NORDIC GROUP, HAS TRANSMITTED SOME OF THE EC'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISRAEL TO SCANDINAVIA. MORE CRITICISM IS EXPECTED HOWEVER FROM STOCKHOLM WHICH HAS BEEN TRADITIONALLY MORE NEUTRAL, AND FROM HELSINKI, WHICH HAS BEEN FORCED TO TAKE A MORE DETACHED STANCE.

5. APHEK INDICATED THAT DAYAN WOULD LIKE TO VISIT ICELAND IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. HE SAID THAT THE KAMEL VISIT WAS ADDED AT THE LAST MINUTE BY THE HOST GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO BALANCE DAYAN'S TRIP AND TO OFFSET ARAB AND INTERNAL DOMESTIC PRESSURES WHICH HAD BEGUN TO SURFACE IN THE SCANDINAVIAN CAPITALS. THE SUBJECT OF A POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN KAMEL AND DAY AN WAS NOT RAISED.

6. COMMENT: DAYAN HAS BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL IN HIS RECENT EXCHANGES WITH EUROPEANS TO WHOM HE SEEMS TO RELATE WELL. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE DURING RECENT VISITS TO ISRAEL BY BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET (WHO FOUND DAYAN TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN BEGIN). DAYAN IS WELL-KNOWN TO AND RESPECTED BY THE SCANDINAVIANS AND HAS A PUBLIC RELATIONS VALUE WHICH CAN BE USED TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION IN THESE

COUNTRIES, WHICH HAS BECOME LESS PRO-ISRAEL SINCE 1967. DAYAN CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY ON COMMON DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS AND THE HISTORICAL FRIENDSHIP STEMMING FROM SCANDINAVIAN RESCUE EFFORTS OF JEWS DURING WORLD WAR II. IN THE CASE OF FINLAND, HE MIGHT DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN TWO SMALL NATIONS FACING LARGER NEIGHBORS AND PLAY ON WHAT WE HAVE HEARD DESCRIBED AS FINLAND'S SECRET ADMIRATION OF ISRAELI SUCCESSES AGAINST THE USSR-BACKED ARAB FRONT.

7. THAT FRIENDSHIP IS SAID TO BE REAL AND IS MANIFESTED IN NUMEROUS FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, TOURISTIC AND TRADE TIES, AND UN VOTING RECORDS. DAYAN WILL ATTEMPT TO REVITALIZE THE NATURAL AFFINITY WHICH THE SCANDINAVIANS HAVE FOR ISRAEL BY DEMONSTRATING THAT IT IS NOT ISRAEL ALONE WHICH IS TO BLAME FOR THE DEADLOCK IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
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8. ACCORDING TO A CLOSE FRIEND OF DAYAN'S, THE MFA RATIONALE FOR DAYAN'S VISIT IS SO MUCH HOGWASH. DAYAN SIMPLY WANTED TO BE ABSENT FROM ISRAEL DURING THE ENDLESS FESTIVITIES THIS WEEK COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 30TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY. WE SUSPECT THIS IS RATHER CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN MR. APHEK'S EXPLANATION.
LEWIS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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